

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. Late afternoon July 18, I received MFA Protocol Officer Asefi to learn that Acting DepFonMin Dr. Wahed Karim wanted to see me urgently at 6 p.m. I explained (in view previously discussed recognition difficulty) that I could not see Dr. Karim officially, but agreed to an informal meeting.

2. I met Karim at MFA. He looked harassed, having just come from a meeting with Mr. Daud. I made formal disclaimer that my presence implied no position regarding recognition issue. However, I stressed that this statement carried no particular implication with regard to Afghanistan, explaining

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- E. G. A. M.

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

that this was USG's worldwide policy regarding recognition. Karim appeared to take this explanation in stride.

3. Karim explained that he, too, was speaking informally but nevertheless "under instructions from Daud. He said Mr. rpt Mr. Daud is well aware that I have been great friend of Afghanistan and that he (Daud) appreciates the tactful way in which I have maintained contact over the years in an effort to keep channels of communications open.

4. Karim said Daud wished to bring to my attention informally the worrisome situation of broadcasts and news reports emanating from Iran, Pakistan and England which potentially could produce great difficulties for Afghanistan and its neighbors. There are allegations, for example, that a number of Afghan generals have been killed. (He cited General Abdul Wali and General Ghani.) Secondly, there are implications in these broadcasts, particularly the BBC, are suggesting that the Shah and President Bhutto might get together to see what could be done about recent events in "unruly Afghanistan." Karim also characterized some of Radio Tehran broadcasts as "an unfriendly joke," without further elaboration.

5. He then assured me that not one general had been killed, and that both Abdul Wali and NinDef Khan Mohammad Khan were alive and well. He said that only some ordinary soldiers had been casualties in the brief fighting. Karim reiterated

that this was DDC's position on policy regarding recognition. Karim appeared to take this explanation in stride.

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It then seemed to me that not one general had been killed and that both Abdul Wali and General Kham Khansama had been alive and well. He said that only some ordinary soldiers had been casualties in the brief fighting. Karim repeated

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that coup was strictly an internal affair of Afghanistan and that the Afghan people are full of friendship for the Iranian people but that they would brook no interference in Afghan affairs from any outsiders.

6. I responded first by asking Karim what he would have me do about these concerns since we are not directly involved, adding of course that we were concerned with what happening in Afghanistan and with implications of Afghanistan's relations within the region. I said I would have expected him to take this up with the British and Iranian ambassadors. Karim replied simply that he knew that I am friend of Afghanistan and that "we don't speak to others like we do to you."

7. I then expressed to Karim my personal view as an academic analyst that announcements and assurances from new regime were fine as far as they went but that actions were what really counted. I noted that the only foreign country mentioned in Mr. Daud's speech was Pakistan, and knowing Mr. Daud's previous problems over Pashtunistan, it would be natural to expect some worries from its eastern neighbor. I also expressed my view that so long as the country is hermetically sealed and that the normal flow of information had been cut off, abnormal information would naturally get out. I suggested to Karim if Afghanistan wanted to prevent alarmist news from being spread that the normal channels of communica-

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tion should be reopened as quickly as possible.

8. Karim expressed his appreciation for my views. In response to my question as to how things were outside of Kabul, Karim said that Mr. Daud is particularly pleased that the Pashtun tribes have welcomed the new regime, which he feels came more quickly because the replacement of the monarchy by a republic demonstrated to the people that Daud was not merely seeking to replace the King because of personal ambition.

1991-1992